



VOLUME LXXI NUMBER 4

April 2024



EBARC
Meetings
Next meeting, April 12, 2024

Unitarian
Universalist
Church

Of Berkeley

Safir Room
1 Lawson Rd.,
Kensington, CA

Check your email for Zoom link.



The Executive Board meets monthly before each general meeting at 7:00 PM, the preceding Tuesday or Thursday on Zoom.

Welcome EBARC Members to the fourth edition of the Blown Fuse for 2024.

Please plan to join us at the meeting on April 12, 2024, in-person or on the Zoom Link.

Program: To be determined

Thanks to members who brought refreshments to the March meeting, Mike Camp and Karen & Jay Fenton

The Blown Fuse is published monthly by the East Bay Amateur Radio Club, Inc. and is a service provided as part of membership. *The Blown Fuse* welcomes articles of interest to its members and amateur radio in general. *The Blown Fuse* reserves the right to edit or reject any material submitted. Material submitted becomes the property of *The Blown Fuse*. Permission is hereby granted to reproduce material printed herein provided proper acknowledgment is given. Editor: Audrey Nieman W6BBQ
Deadline for May Issue April 25, 2024.

President's Message

What are you doing with your radios? What have you done? What do you want to do? In other words: Where are you in your Radio life(career?). A long time ago (1974), Gail Sheehy wrote a book called "Passages." The book described predictable stages of a person's life. Predictable crises, some have suggested. There seem to be Amateur Radio parallels. Part of the stages is dealing with challenges. In Amateur Radio: Getting and learning to operate a handie talkie, Getting that first HF transceiver and antenna. Deciding on what bands to work in what order. Dealing with Propagation issues. Learning to get comfortable on the air with participation in nets and contests. There are the challenges of making contacts in all states and countries. There are the challenges trying to operate or respond to those in parks, on summits, or islands. Seems to me that a great way to face challenges is to talk (and write) about what you are doing with your Radio, including calls for assistance. A goal of the Self-introductions and Announcements sections of the monthly meetings is to share experiences and find out if there are people who can use or offer help. The mid-meeting break provides opportunity for sharing and interacting. Doing activities/events like POTA, or Field Day extend the opportunities. I encourage you to reach out at our meetings and in the *Blown Fuse*.

President's Message (continued)

You may discover useful resources that you hadn't expected. Such unexpected useful experiences tend to be appreciated a lot. Those reticent members and those super experienced members are reminded and encouraged to share. I've been de-stapling 40 years of hard copy EBARC newsletter lately, preparing them for scanning and digital archiving. FWIW the name "*Blown Fuse*" was first applied to the EBARC newsletter in September of 1969. Though I have not read the documents thoroughly, it appears that our members, back then, lacking Cable TV, the Internet, and social media were more engaged with each other and more engaged locally and via the Newsletter (and likely the telephone) than now. The 4-8-page newsletters are filled with small announcements. The downside is the newsletter comes out, at best, monthly. Now, with smartphones, announcements about other matters are shared constantly 24/7/366 (Leap Year this year) from all over the world. What can we do? Non-urgent announcements can be sent to ebham.office@gmail.com. Efforts will be made to include them in the next *Blown Fuse*. On my "to do" list is an effort to revive the EBARC Google Group, which will allow one to many communications. EBARC has a Facebook page, but it is a curated page. Meaning members cannot directly post to the page. Information sent to it gets evaluated. If found appropriate, it is uploaded to Facebook. If you have thoughts and suggestions on other and better ways that we can help each other navigate through these stages (including call outs for assistance and/or call outs to assist) let me know at thteach@sonic.net.

Todd Teachout
President
W8BIK

Minutes of the March Meeting

March 8, 2024, General Meeting Minutes

EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC
REGULAR HYBRID MEETING MARCH 8, 2024
The EBARC General Meeting was held on Friday, March 8, 2024 as a hybrid meeting. The in-Person meeting occurred at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley (UUCB) at 1 Lawson Road, Kensington, CA, 94704-1015. The on-line meeting was held via the Zoom internet conferencing application. There were 14 members attended in person: 9 members on-line. Present in person were President Todd Teachout W8BIK, Vice President Howdy Goudy KE6BEE, Treasurer Audrey Nieman W6BBQ, Secretary Jan Kuhl AC5RB; members Karen Fenton KK6ZPM, Jay Fenton KJ6WSS, Mark Gilligan KD6MDZ, Linda Nowell KG6VLX, Keith Nowell KG6VLY, Mike Camp KI7FU, Robin Fraatz KE6MRH, Chris Harwood AA6AT, David Swanson KJ6AAT and guest Ross Talarico W6OGX. The Zoom members and guests included Diane Richwine KK6RED, Rob Johnson KK6JNI, Don Simon NI6A, Aaron Knuth KN6SMS-, Katie Carney KN6APB, Joe Fisher K5EJL, Morie Oberg KK6MO, Robin Spaulding N6RLS, and Lorraine Schnurr KN6CRT.

The Meeting was called to order by President Todd at 7:36 PM. There was a motion to approve the agenda after adding meeting time change.

MOTION CARRIED

There were self-introductions from those present as well as those on Zoom.

CW- there was interest in pursuing CW classes by Jan, Lorraine, Robin, and Mike. A class of 4-8 would be a good size. Todd will work with Mike about logistics of going ahead with the classes.

MINUTES- The Minutes from the January meeting as well as the February meeting were approved as printed in the *Blown Fuse*.

MOTION CARRIED

TREASURER REPORT- Audrey read it and it will be printed in the *Blown Fuse*.

MEMBERSHIP- Audrey reported there are 43 members that are paid up. This includes family members as well as life members. She checked the mail and no new payments came in.

She has sent out letters and will send email reminders so she can put together an updated roster. She reminded people that PayPal could also be used. She would like to bring back former members as well as encourage new ones.

VICE PRESIDENT PROGRAM—Howdy announced that Jay Fenton would be presenting about antennas.

President Todd said he was working with staff involved with the Digital Library of Amateur Radio and Communications (DLARC), a project of the Internet Archive, to archive EBARC's *Blown Fuse* Newsletters. He found hard copies of newsletters going back to 1964 with EBARC's stored equipment. Those newsletters go to about the year 2000. He said he would be meeting with Sharon Primbsch AA6XZ to acquire other newsletters dating back to 2008. The website has old *Blown Fuses* to 2009. The goal is to have digital versions of the *Blown Fuse* Newsletter in the Internet Archive.

SOURCES OF COMMUNICATION-EBARC has a Web site, a Facebook page, and a Google group. There may be other social media sites where EBARC has a presence, too. Todd said he would try to update and reactivate the previously set up EBARC Google Group. Membership of the Group will allow members to contact each other without having to interact with the EBARC Board members. The Google groups engine can issue e-mails about a discussion topic as they are created. Google Groups can also issue a Digest e-mail. The Digest version aggregates the discussion topics that occurred in a longer period. From a two or three a day to one or two Digests per week depending on activity.

Todd and Howdy met with Peter who is the new facilities staff at the Church. Peter suggested the CERT Shed needed to be relocated. Peter also expressed a desire for EBARC equipment to be moved out of the workshop room so that he can use the room as a workshop. It is too full now to do that. The Church has several areas where equipment can be moved. EBARC is not directly involved with the CERT Shed. EBARC could partner with others to create a Rado Station in the Shed.

Minutes continued

EBARC has rent paid to the UUCB through March 2024. UUCB charges EBARC \$100 a month for the room and \$50 for storage. Todd will work with the UUCB regarding the equipment relocation and the rental agreement extension. Todd and Howdy will coordinate, as warranted, regarding the CERT Shed.

There was discussion about changing the meeting date for April 2024 because it conflicts with the International DX Convention in Visalia. Todd would like to attend the Convention. Todd checked with the Church and the 5th and the 19th were available if members were ok with changing the meeting date. Discussion occurred. If Todd attends, he will Zoom in. There was a motion to have the meeting on its regular date but to change the time to 7:00PM. The Executive Committee has changed its meeting day and time to not be the same day as the General meeting. MOTION CARRIED

PROGRAM- Jay Fenton had a slide show of several towers he and different crews have taken down by requests. He has salvaged several and they are available to be set up in another location. Each set up is personalized to the situation and is unique. He also had pictures of progress in his workshop for the antennas.

Meeting adjourned 9:45 PM

Respectfully Submitted

Jan Kuhl, Secretary

Treasurer's Report March 31, 2024,

**Audrey Nieman
W6BBQ**

Beginning Balance 2/29/24	\$9545.54
Income:	
Interest	\$.03
Total Income	\$.03
Disbursements	
UUCB rent through 1/25	\$1500.00
Ending Balance	\$8045.57
Portion as Petty Cash	\$ 40.00
Portion as CD	\$5000.00

Membership Report:

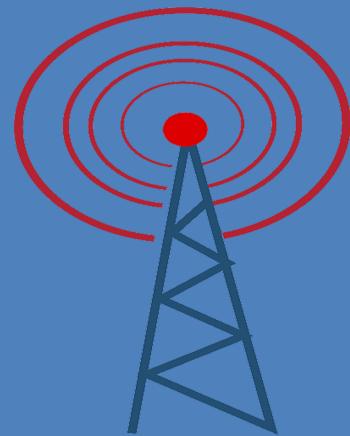
We have 44 paid members. Watch for your updated roster coming soon by email.

PENDING ITEMS

CLUB Station: Still on-hold pending meetings with the UUCB Faith Leader, and Executive Director and/or other UUCB personnel.

Vacancies:

- Membership, 3rd VP
- Blown Fuse
Permanent Editor
- Licensed Volunteer
Examiners& Testing
- Coordinator Radio
Operator License
Test Prep
- Instructors
Community Support
(Sports events,
scouting, Maker
Faires)
- Program Presenters



The East Bay Amateur Radio Club, founded in 1947, is a California non-profit organization of amateur radio operators in Contra Costa and Alameda counties. The club is open to anyone interested in amateur radio. Annual dues are \$35 for individual membership, \$45 for a family membership, and \$10 for students K-12. For information, send email to ebham.office@gmail.com, contact any EBARC officer, see Web page www.ebarc.org, or write EBARC, P.O. Box 1393, El Cerrito, CA 94530. You can also follow us on Twitter using @w6cus, or on Facebook's "East Bay Amateur Radio Club."

2024 East Bay Amateur Radio Club Executive Committee

Todd Teachout, W8BIK, President	510-799-6051
Jan Kuhl, AC5RB, Secretary.....	510-846-3829
Howdy Goudey, KE6BEE, 1 st VP / Program Chair	510-684-9097
Audrey Nieman, W6BBQ, / Membership Chair	510-682-7938
Audrey Nieman, W6BBQ, Treasurer / Finance Chair	510-682-7938

2024 EBARC's Other Committee Heads and Contacts

<i>Blown Fuse</i> Editor: Audrey Nieman, W6BBQ	510-682-7938
W6CUS Trustee Chris Harwood	510-332-7383
Webmasters: Chris & Isaac Harwood	510-332-7383

Bay Area Amateur Radio Nets

Net	Days	Time	PL	FREQ MHZ
Over the Hill Commuter CCCC	M-F	0710	82.5-	145.110
CCCC 220 Net	Tues	1930	82.5+	224.300
WC EMCOMM Net	Thu	1845	82.5	145.110
CCCC Evening Net	Thu	1930	82.5-	145.110
KARO/ECHO EMCOMM NET	Thu	1900	simplex	146.415
NALCO ARES EMCOMM Net	Thu	1915	77-	440.900
ORCA Net	Thu	1930	77	146.880
Bay Area EMCOMM Net	SAT	0900	82.5-	145.110
CCCC WC Net	Sat	0915	82.5-	224.300
Bay Area Comm Net	Sat	0930	82.5+	444.275
Cert FL Digi Net	Sat	1000	82.5+	444.275

Open Source GQRX Software released.

"In an update on the RTL-SDR website today, the popular, open source GQRX software was released for the Windows operating system. So now it runs on Windows, Linux and MacOS.

Thank you to those who showed up! It was fun helping others get on the HF bands for little to no cost. Hopefully some attendees will join in the Thursday night net fun and explore HF.

When my budget allows, I'll try to get an SDRPlay RSPdx and do a comparison to the RTL-SDR."

73, Chris
AA6AT

Highlights from the Past found in Blown Fuse issues of yesteryear:

EBARC Happenings from the April 1999 Blown Fuse(25 years ago)

The club General meeting occurred at the Albany Senior Center, at 846 Masonic Ave. The Executive Committee met at the W6CUS Station at 3200 Macdonald Ave., Richmond.

There was an announcement that the FCC dropped CW proficiency requirement for Class D(Technician) Licenses. Class C (Novice, Tech Plus, and General) were changed to required 5 wpm CW proficiency, Class B (Advance) required to have 7.5 wpm. Class A (Extra) needed to have 12wpm. The test questions changed as well. Adding Computer Theory, Boolean Algebra, and Integrated Circuits, while questions about vacuum tubes were dropped.

Member Ron Smith (KE6RS) was club historian, then, and put out a call for back issues of the Blown Fuse. He was reasonably successful as we have full year archives from 1969 to 2021. Sharon Primbsch (AA6XZ) also contributed to the archive and was Blown Fuse editor from 1994 to 2022. Thank you both and those unmentioned members that donated their back issues to the archive.

The newsletter announced the first meeting (in March, 1999) of the Red Oak Victory Radio Club. The meeting presentation was a talk by Cal Professor Dr. Dan Werthheimer about SERENDIP-SETI a program to search for signals from extraterrestrial (intelligent) civilizations.

EBARC Happenings from the April 1974 Blown Fuse (50 years ago)

The April meeting was held at Casa Cerrito on Portola Dr., in El Cerrito.

There was an article about how best to try to do an interstellar QSO. Frequencies discussed: 1,420.405 MHz, the frequency which radio waves are emitted by Hydrogen; 1,652.418, the frequency selected by the center of mass of a water molecule; then 56,00(?) MHz, which is not allowed (near the Earth's Surface) because it is "too near the natural radioation(?) frequency of molecular oxygen." [Not sure if there are typos, here, or not. Molecular Oxygen, O₂, absorbs electromagnetic energy at 60GHz (Google). The FCC manages the 60GHz band for fast Ethernet Bridge communication devices]

There were "Want Ads" identifying needed equipment for the Club Station and Club equipment for sale. There were other items wanted and for sale by members.

Announcement that the National ARRL Convention is happening at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City during July 19-21st.